



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Corps prepares for dredging this winter with completion of management plan

Walla Walla, Wash. – The Walla Walla District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to perform routine maintenance dredging this year on the lower Snake River and McNary Reservoir on the Columbia River. This dredging follows the completion this week of the Dredged Material Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The Corps, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, developed the long-range plan for the navigation channel maintenance.

Brig. Gen. David A. Fastabend, the Corps' Northwestern Division commander, signed the Record of Decision Sept. 27 on the Walla Walla District's 20-year plan for managing dredged material removed from the four reservoirs on the lower Snake River and McNary reservoir on the Columbia River.

The Record of Decision completes the four-year, \$3.5 million study with a recommended alternative that combines maintenance dredging, beneficial use of dredged materials, and raising levees.

The Corps' first dredging activity under the plan is proposed for this winter. The Corps will dredge the navigation channel at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater rivers, several port facilities in the Lewiston-Clarkston area, several recreation facilities in Lower Granite and Little Goose reservoirs, navigation lock approaches to Lower Granite and Lower Monumental Dams, and other areas.

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Adaptive management is incorporated as part of the plan. “Opportunities to use dredged material cannot always be anticipated, so a process to continue the environmental coordination will go on through

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the next 20 years,” said Jack Sands, project manager for the Dredged Material Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

“One of the beneficial uses of dredged material includes in-water disposal to create shallow water sand bars along shorelines of the Lower Granite reservoir. The creation of this habitat has the potential to restore some of the conditions of the lower Snake River prior to dam construction, and is expected to provide benefits to some of the salmon species listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act by providing resting and rearing habitat for juvenile salmon prior to their downstream migration to the ocean,” said Sands.

As part of the plan, the Corps is proposing raising some levees to maintain recommended flow capacity. “Extensive coordination would be completed before this work could begin,” said Sands.

The 14- foot deep and 250- foot wide navigation channel through these reservoirs has historically been dredged in some locations. These reservoirs are part of an inland navigation system that provides slackwater navigation from the mouth of the Columbia River near Astoria, Oregon, to port facilities on the Snake and Clearwater rivers in Clarkston, Wash., and Lewiston, Idaho. Ports and marinas reimburse the Corps for the costs incurred for dredging their facilities.

For more information on the Corps' Dredged Material Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, visit <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/dmmp>.

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